

REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

DISEASES OF THE ANUS, RECTUM, AND PELVIC COLON. By JAMES P. TUTTLE, A.M., M.D., Professor of Rectal Surgery in the New York Polyclinic Medical School. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1903.

This work appears to be one of the most complete, exhaustive, and thorough presented for the aid and instruction of the rectal specialist.

The chapters on Embryology, Anatomy, Physiology, and Malformations are full and accurate; that on Examination and Diagnosis being replete with valuable suggestions.

The author's handling of the subjects of Proctitis, and Catarrhal Diseases of the Sigmoid and Colon, leaves little to be desired.

The chapter on Tuberculosis of Rectum and Colon seems to the writer the most complete to be found in any modern work of the kind. Allingham, Kelsey, and Mathews give the subject but scant mention. The same is true of Gant in his recent work.

In Fissure in Ano the author describes a method of treatment, by repeated applications of pure ichthyol following insufflation of orthoform, by which means he claims a large percentage of cures in uncomplicated cases. This method seems worthy of fuller trial.

In operative procedure he indicates three methods,—dilatation, incision, and excision; and he seems, in the main, to favor incision, because, as claimed, it is more certain to cure, and obviates the necessity of a general anæsthetic. In this he agrees with Kelsey. The writer would dissent from this conclusion, agreeing most decidedly with Mathews in favoring dilatation, because the operation is less formidable; the relief, in nearly all cases, very prompt; the healing speedy, and the patient seldom laid up more

than one day, which is a great consideration. If the sentinel pile is removed, and overhanging edges paired if they exist, failure seldom results. The matter of general anaesthesia may be a point against division. The writer has met this by using in over 800 cases nitrous oxide, which has answered the purpose admirably, and which the patients take with but slight inconvenience.

On the other hand, incision, unless deep enough to divide the sphincter, often fails, Dupuytren, Curling, and Copeland to the contrary notwithstanding, and when thus deep, makes a wound difficult to keep aseptic, which heals slowly, and in most cases means detention from avocation for some time.

The author's treatment of the subjects of Perianal and Perirectal Abscesses and Fistula is very full and explicit. The delineations of technique, methods of operation, and subsequent treatment, are admirable; and the indications pointed out in favor of excision with immediate suturing, in selected cases of fistula, worthy of fullest consideration.

In the matter of treatment of haemorrhoids, this work may almost be said to mark a new departure, in that the author, differing from Allingham, Mathews, Gant, and from the present attitude of Kelsey, gives his unqualified endorsement to the usefulness of the injection method for the treatment of uncomplicated cases of internal haemorrhoids.

His dissent from the almost universal chorus of condemnation by the standard authors is marked by a careful discrimination between the two systems in vogue, *i.e.*, the one which injects strong solutions in large quantities, thus causing sloughing of the tumors, and the one which uses small quantities of weak solutions, producing mild inflammation, induration, and final atrophy of the pile, without ulceration or sloughing.

The former he emphatically, and justly, condemns; the latter he endorses. Yet this first method is the one generally indicated and described by the authorities as the injection method, and its evil results pointed out.

For instance, Gant, in his recent work, gives as an illustrative case a patient who would not submit to an operation, whom he treated thus. Four tumors were injected at once with a moderately strong carbolic solution, ten minims to each tumor. On the tenth day, two tumors remaining were well treated in the same manner. Result, great pain, inflammation, sloughing, and abscess.

A practitioner experienced in this method would expect nothing else. The error is in the excess of fluid injected, overfilling the tumors, and extending the inflammation to the surrounding cellular tissue, and in treating too many tumors at once.

The experience of the writer, in a large number of cases treated by the milder method, leads him to almost adopt the identical conclusions of Professor Tuttle.

This method is not to be heralded as a universal substitute for the more radical and effective operations of ligature, clamp, and cautery; but there are multitudes of cases, when wisely selected, in which it will give very satisfactory cures, with a minimum of inconvenience, and no detention from ordinary duties.

The attitude of the profession must change in this regard, and this work will mark a step in the right direction.

The author's criticism of the modification of Whitehead's operation, introduced by Pratt, of Chicago, seems fully justified by several cases which have come under observation, where the results were very unsatisfactory.

The criticism of the Allingham and Vanburen method of cauterizing the mass in prolapse of the rectum with nitric acid or actual cautery is noted with satisfaction, as also the recommendation of the removal of sections of the membrane by clamp and cautery, as giving better guarantee of success.

The chapters on Malignant Neoplasms and Excision of the Rectum are replete with valuable information; and the large number of cases gathered and tabulated very instructive. The facts point to, and seem to bear out, the conclusions of the author, that early excision of the rectum, in judiciously selected cases,

not only offers a hope of prolonged life, but in a small per cent. of these unfortunate cases does give promise of permanent cure.

To counterbalance this, however, is the ominous death-rate of about 20 per cent., which the best aseptic technique has not been able to materially reduce. But when we consider that the lives thus shortened were doomed without surgical interference, the balance still seems to be in favor of the author's conclusion, when action is tempered with wise conservatism.

The author's treatment of colostomy, his careful differentiation of methods, and the conditions requiring the temporary or permanent operations are admirable.

It would seem that the limitations he suggests as to the usefulness of Colostomy in malignant cases of the rectum are justified; and that the attitude of certain surgeons, who seem to be ready to perform Colostomy on nearly all cases where excision is not admissible, in no sense commends itself to the conservative mind.

J. RUSSELL TABER.

GYNAECOLOGY. A Text-Book for Students and a Guide for Practitioners. By WILLIAM R. PRYOR, M.D., Professor of Gynaecology, New York Polyclinic Medical School, etc. Octavo, 373 pp., 163 illustrations. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

The author of this work has given us a concise treatise upon those subjects which are strictly gynaecological, and which are commonly met with in private practice. Few rare diseases are described or illustrated, and no space is sacrificed to bibliography, minute anatomy or microscopy which are of little interest to the general reader. The reviewer can but congratulate Dr. Pryor on his selections and upon the general arrangement of this readable book.

Dr. Pryor's large experience as a teacher, his power to enthuse his auditors, and his positiveness, carry conviction, and

make the book of particular value as a guide to the general practitioner, who will find many excellent and explicit suggestions in the various chapters.

The work is divided into two parts. In the first, those diseases peculiar to women are clearly and concisely described, and the text elucidated with illustrations of more than ordinary merit. The second part of the book is devoted to a description of the various gynaecological operations, and a consideration of the indications and the contraindications for the same. The details of technique in both local and operative treatment of the various pelvic disorders are specially dwelt upon.

The chapters on pelvic inflammations are noteworthy, gonococcic and septic infections have received much attention, and the general subject of peritonitis is dealt with in such a thorough and practical manner that both student and surgeon will find it interesting and suggestive.

The sections on diseases of the urethra and bladder are replete with practical suggestions as to diagnosis and treatment, and merit commendation. The surgery of the perineum and cervix are well described, and the operations on these structures made clear by numerous, well-executed illustrations. One can hardly see reason for the author's strong advocacy of silver wire in plastic work, when chromic, tendon, and silkworm gut will give the desired results.

The chapters on ovarian and uterine neoplasms and cancer are interesting; these subjects are thoroughly, though not exhaustively, considered; the pathology of the latter disease is well illustrated, and the indications and limitations for operative intervention are definite.

The author's ideas on drainage after abdominal operation, and his general rules for its employment or avoidance, are based on sound logic, and will be read with profit.

Dr. Pryor we find at his best in his description of vaginal hysterectomy with hemisection of the uterus for pelvic suppura-

tion; this original chapter contains much that will be helpful to every gynaecological surgeon. The pages on the preparation of the patient for major operations and her post-operative management are of special value to the occasional operator, who is in need of explicit directions as to the proper care of his case.

There can be little doubt that the author favors vaginal operations when intrapelvic conditions make the vaginal route possible; however, he differentiates with skill the conditions to which it is applicable, and discusses the advantages of the abdominal operation without bias.

The work as a whole is interesting, original, scientific, and will be found to be a most practical aid to the student as well as to the finished surgeon.

JOHN O. POLAK.

DISEASES OF THE EAR. A Text-Book for Practitioners and Students of Medicine. By EDWARD BRADFORD DENCH, PH.B., M.D., Professor of Otology in the University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College. Third Edition, Revised. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

This treatise has already gained for itself a place of honor among the many books that have recently been appearing in this special field of work. The issue of a new and revised edition (third) of it speaks well for its character. The constituency for such a work is growing, but the work must have intrinsic worth to hold the constituency. This we concede it has.

The author adopts a style all his own: we are not often impressed with its like. It has a certain dignity of cadence, an *ex cathedra* quality of utterance, that reminds one of the lecturer proceeding with measured sentence and repelling querulous interruption.

This is impressive and takes with the general reader, who likes what is authoritative and seldom cares to question on his own initiative. Such a work does good where a fair and honest

quantum of responsibility is felt in such an attitude as we believe is here manifest. The revisions and additions are evidence of this sense. But in accordance with the style above noted is the ever-present sense of remoteness both in the original and in the revision. The author does not enter largely into discussion or detail. His treatment is curt and summary, but measurably complete.

HEBER NELSON HOOPLE.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES: Their Etiology, Diagnosis, and Treatment. By G. H. ROGER, Professor Extraordinary in the Faculty of Medicine of Paris, etc. Translated by M. S. GABRIEL, M.D., New York. Octavo, 864 pages. Philadelphia and New York: Lea Brothers & Co., 1903.

The time is ripe for the making of this book. Some one was needed to condense and systematize up to date our knowledge about Infectious Diseases. This the author has done in his own way. His qualifications were adequate. Being a master in the biological laboratory, and having exceptional opportunities as a hospital clinician, he combined in himself the indispensable prerequisites for this task. The task was prodigious,—so much literature to be read, so much to be done in the laboratory, so much to be seen at the bedside, and withal so much of the scientific habit of mind to properly marshal the vast amount of material into a homogeneous volume. The author has measurably succeeded. He has written well. He has made his book interesting and useful. With enthusiasm and eloquence he has made a scientific book pleasing. He has practically given us a treatise on medicine from a new view-point. He asserts things: he is nothing, if not positive. These are needed and valuable qualities in a good book. Besides, in the main, he succeeds in his aim and gets everything into one volume. We qualify his success, because of certain defects which we shall point out. But, first, we commend especially the chapter on Suppuration, valuable alike to the surgeon and the physician. The author is discriminating in his

chapter on Septicæmia and Pyæmia. Some of the author's statements are delightful in their very simplicity. In the chapter on Fever he states fever is "essentially characterized by an exaggeration of the chemical processes occurring in the organism," and "the fever of infections is a reaction of the organism against microbic toxins." Though the author has clear vision and logical acumen, we fear he is not always on his guard. At least we cannot leap with him to the conclusion that "all nervous affections (save family and hereditary disease) are caused by some infection or intoxication," because, as he says, inoculations with more or less virulent germs "in animals have produced a series of nervous affections and notably myelitis." We find him claiming, in a case of Landry's paralysis, where death occurred in a paroxysm of dyspncea after paralysis of the feet and where the histological examination of the lumbar enlargement of the cord revealed altered nerve elements in the anterior horns without microbic foci (though the blood furnished pure cultures of the pneumococcus), that therefore the ascending paralysis was "due to pneumococcic infection." As a rule, the logic is more steady and reliable.

The short chapter on Mechanism of Immunity and Predisposition is one of the best. "The agglutinating reaction is specific. It is exercised only upon the element against which the animal reacts." "The modification of the fluids explains all acquired immunity." Statements like these are charming: they are easily accepted because so firmly stated, saving the reader from need of rebellious thought. The author is fully cognizant of the complexity of the problems, deals with them intelligently, and presents the most plausible case the facts afford.

Congenital Infections and Heredity and the Therapeutics of Infectious Diseases are both well-written and interesting sections and share our commendations. But in much of the rest of the book, and to some extent in these chapters, the author writes *too much*. A working knowledge is desirable; exhaustive analysis is not practicable in narrow limits. Therefore it is an error to attempt it, causing the style at times to become prolix and verbose.

where for the most part it is delightfully terse and vigorous. The result is we have a big book on our hands, where one half the size would have answered better. In a word, the laboratory is too much in evidence *here*. In fact, it would be a great desideratum to have all the author's knowledge that is available in kernels of truth and wisdom gathered into small space so as to stand out boldly and impressively; for the book is rich in good meat if we could but easily get at it to eat.

We can lay no serious charge at the door of the translator, though he has strangely retained the French word "*recidive*" in the text. The publishers' part also has been well done. But we have a comment to make on this book in common with others emanating from European sources. In the first place, it contains a stingy index. Of all books that needed a liberal index, even a cross-index, this one most. In the second place, though we have credited the author with wide reading, generously acknowledged in his text, yet, like so many of his continental confrères, he almost completely ignores work and literature of England and America. Not once is there mention even of *yellow fever*; and, though many names are included in references to the work of Laveran, Patrick Manson and Ronald Ross are omitted. The title of this book is on the face of it a claim to comprehensiveness. All Americans will note with regret the failure to cite American researches in yellow fever and the name of our lamented Reed in its heroic relation to the study of that dire infection.

HEBER NELSON HOOPLE.

SOCIAL DISEASES AND MARRIAGE. By PRINCE A. MORROW, A.M., M.D., Emeritus Professor of Genito-Urinary Diseases in the University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College of New York. Octavo, 390 pp. New York and Philadelphia: Lea Brothers & Co., 1904.

It is the object of this work to set forth the dangers introduced by venereal diseases into marriage, and to indicate the most

effective means to prevent these dangers or to limit and circumscribe their spread. In pursuance of his plan, Dr. Morrow has divided his book into three parts, the first of which deals with Gonorrhœa and Marriage, the second with Syphilis and Marriage, the third with matters pertaining to Social Prophylaxis. The large part which gonorrhœa in recent decades has come to be recognized as playing is suggested by the fact that the section of this book devoted to the consideration of this part of the subject is the largest of the three. There is nothing sensational nor hysterical in the author's methods. His points are clearly made, and his statements of fact are in full accord with present knowledge. It is a book worth reading upon a subject that ought to be plainly and fully treated. Any intelligent adult would be benefited by its perusal, and it is not likely that its circulation will be confined to physicians.

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